

TOWN OF WEBSTER

Office of Selectmen

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Webster, NH 03303

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Public Hearing per RSA 32:5, I and V – February 12, 2008

7:00 P.M. Chairman Hashem opened the public hearing. Grange Member Dot Haskins welcomed all to the proposed 2008 Warrant and Budget hearing. She welcomed all to partake of the refreshments available.

Selectmen present: George Hashem, David Klumb and Thomas Mullins.

Gordon Welch made a motion to dispense with the reading of Article 1 to 6 (the Election of Officers and Zoning Amendments, all to be voted on by ballot on Tuesday, March 11, 2008); seconded by Robert Drown and approved.

Chairman Hashem read all of the Articles as follows:

- Articles 7-11 were read with no comments from the public.
- Inquiries on Article 12 regarding purchase of Ballistic Vests for the Police Department resulted in Lieutenant Mitchell explaining that these vests have a shelf life expectancy of approximately five years. The current vests are older than five years. The Police Department is currently seeking a grant to allow the Department to procure more vests than those appropriated for.
- Article 13 requesting funds to help defray the Pillsbury Lake District expenses for the “Dam” bond led to discussion as to how long the bond was for. Selectmen Klumb advised that it was more than 20 years’ bond.
- Article 14 regarding the creation of a Capital Reserve for future equipment for the Landfill was discussed. Mr. Drown and Mr. Welch, Landfill Committee Members, advised that there are many expenses coming. Webster is having more involvement with Hopkinton due to the newly appointed committee. They are working to make everything work smoother and more equitable for both communities. There was discussion on the Hopkinton Recycling Fund set up a few years ago, in which Webster did not participate.
- Articles 15 through 18 were read with no public comments.
- Article 19 regarding reappraisal to come from the Capital Reserve was discussed with the Board advising that a “total revaluation” is done every 5 years as mandated by the State. It was questioned as to the reason for this if the Town has 20% done each year. The public was advised that Avitar will not be revisiting every home this year, but needs to revisit how everything is assessed i.e. land, buildings, ect.
- Discussion ensued on Article 20 for the operating budget for Public Safety because of the ambulance fees. When questioned as to how the ambulance billing was done and why there was a significant increase, Fire Chief Adam Pouliot addressed the issue. He explained that the billing was done by Concord Hospital and went on to explain how Webster’s share was calculated basically based on those bill that remained uncollectible.
- Articles 21 to 25 were read with no public comments.
- Article 26 regarding complete discontinuance of certain Class VI roads was discussed. The Board advised that if this passes, then the land would effectively become the property owner’s driveway. Discontinuance would not affect the ability to obtain a building permit as any building permit request would require Zoning Board approval. One resident felt that the Board might be short sighted for the future. Pros and con discussion ensued.
- Article 27 regarding the sale of several lots in the Pillsbury Lake District currently owned by the Town was discussed. When asked if selling these lots would potentially create lots that could be built upon the answer was no.
- Article 28 is a resolution to be sent to the State Representatives, Senators and Governor regarding property tax relieve. Sally Embley spoke in favor of taking this first small step towards property tax relief advising that she has more information if anyone is interested. She also advised that this is a State-wide resolution.

8:15 P.M. Selectman Klumb made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Selectman Mullins and unanimously approved

George K. Hashem

David E. Klumb

Thomas S. Mullins

BOS/jj